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DIARY OF THE WAR

AIR ACTIVITY OVER ENGLAND AND GERMANY

11th July.—The Royal Air Force delivered one of its heaviest bombardments on German-occupied ports and industrial targets in Rhineland. Fourteen enemy planes were destroyed. It was officially announced that 16 German fighters were destroyed during operations over Britain.

12th July.—The German naval base of Wilhelmshaven and transport centres in France were raided by the Royal Air Force, who set fire to a German mine-sweeper off the north-west coast of France. Six enemy fighters were destroyed.

A Soviet military expert estimated that Royal Air Force raids had reduced German industrial production by 30 per cent.

Enemy planes dropped bombs on a place on the north-east coast of Scotland. The crack German air Ace, Captain Pingel, was forced to land in Kent by a British bomber.

The Royal Air Force, it was revealed, had in use a new type of Spitfire, capable of a speed of 400 miles an hour.

13th July.—The Royal Air Force made a heavy raid on industrial areas and shipbuilding yards in Bremen.

Twenty-three Nazi planes, it was announced, were shot down over Britain in the week ending July 11.

14th July.—Mr. Churchill reviewed a parade of London's Civil Defence Workers at Hyde Park and at a luncheon later at the London County Council Hall, paid a striking tribute to them. He promised that Royal Air Force attacks on Germany would increasingly grow in weight.

Many large enemy vessels were hit and destroyed by Royal Air Force bombers off the French and Dutch coasts. Bremen was again bombed.

Three passengers were injured when an enemy raider machine-gunned a train in the Home Counties. Two enemy planes were brought down.

It was announced that only 399 were killed and 461 injured in air raids on Britain in the whole of June (5,300 were killed in May and 6,065 in April).

15th July.—Extensive fires were caused when the Royal Air Force raided the industrial areas in Bremen and Hanover and the docks at Rotterdam.

The German Air Force confined its activities to Eastern England.

16th July.—The Royal Air Force raided Duisberg and other industrial objectives in the Ruhr. Rotterdam harbour was attacked by day and direct hits were scored on many ships.

Some damage and a small number of casualties were caused when enemy bombers attacked a place on the south-east coast of England.

17th July.—Nearly 25 enemy ships were destroyed or put out of action when the Royal Air Force raided Rotterdam. Big fires were caused in Hamburg.

AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

11th July.—An Italian Communiqué admitted vast damage when Naples was raided by the Royal Air Force.

Three Italian planes were shot down and nine damaged in an air battle over Malta.

12th July.—The Royal Air Force bombed Naples, Tripoli and Benghazi, destroying enemy seaplanes and fighter-planes. Several enemy raiders were brought down over Malta. Enemy planes bombed the Suez Canal area, six persons being killed. Slight damage to civilian property was caused in Cyprus by enemy raiders.

13th July.—An Italian Communiqué admitted British air raids on Benghazi and Derna.

14th July.—An enemy convoy was attacked by the Royal Air Force off Tripoli and supply ships were sunk. British submarines also accounted for a number of enemy supply ships in the Mediterranean.

Italian planes were driven off by Gibraltar's anti-aircraft defences. Slight damage was caused by raiders in the Suez Canal area.

15th July.—An Italian communiqué admitted Royal Air Force raids on Messina in Sicily and on Derna, Bardia, Benghazi and Gondar in East Africa.

The British garrison at Tobruk inflicted severe casualties on the enemy and took many prisoners in a violent patrol action.

Some damage was caused to civilian property when Malta was raided.

16th July.—Enemy shipping was destroyed off the Tripolitanian coast in extensive raids by the Royal Air Force, who also attacked enemy aerodromes in Greece and Crete. Seven German aircraft were shot down by the Royal Air Force while trying to bomb British ships off the Libyan coast.

An enemy plane was brought down in the Suez Canal. And none was injured when the enemy raided Cyprus.

17th July.—A British force from Tobruk penetrated 16,000 yards into enemy positions in the course of offensive patrol operations.

AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

11th July.—The employment of United States workmen in the construction of British bases and the use of American steel for that purpose were characterised as "legal steps" by President Roosevelt at a Press Conference.

Mr. Roosevelt asked Congress for 3,323 million dollars in cash and contract authorizations for the United States Navy and Maritime Commission.

The British Government waived their belligerent rights concerning German and Italian ships seized by the United States.

President Roosevelt appointed Colonel W. J. Donovan as Co-ordinator of Information bearing on the Defence programme.

12th July.—It was announced that a brand new explosive would be manufactured on a large scale in United States and made available to Britain.

The United States Navy Department announced extensive mining operations at the entrance to New York harbour.

14th July.—Mr. Sumner Welles, United States Under Secretary of State, said that the United States was anxious that Portugal should retain her sovereignty over the Axores but it was vital that strategic Atlantic outposts should remain in friendly hands.

Col. Knox, United States Secretary of the Navy, declared that "a war of defence against Nazism would be infinitely preferable to a peace accomplished by surrender to Hitlerism."

Legislative steps were foreshadowed to retain existing United States Army units in service.

Col. Donovan, in a broadcast to France, said: "We are confident of victory. We made the tragic mistake of withdrawing after the victory in 1918. We shall not make that mistake again."

15th July.—Mr. Ickes, United States Secretary of the Interior, and Mayor La Guardian of New York warned the Americans against the activities of the Nazis, pro-Nazis and Crypto-Nazis directed towards the appeasement of Germany.

16th July.—President Roosevelt declared that "the disintegration" of the United States Army was threatened if Congress did not allow the Army to keep selectees and National Guardsmen in service over a year.

The German Reich was named as a co-conspirator in an indictment against 33 persons arrested in June for suspected spying.

17th July.—Mr. Roosevelt called a conference of his Chief Naval Advisers.

The United States House of Representatives passed the 536 million dollar Bill for additional shipping and naval facilities.

Mr. Harry Hopkins, Lease and Lend Supervisor, arrived in London, called on Mr. Churchill and attended a meeting of the British Cabinet.

RUSSIA

11th July.—Reports from Moscow indicated that the Nazi drive into Russia was brought to a stand-still along the whole of the 2,000 miles front from the Arctic to the Black Sea. The Soviet claimed to have destroyed 179 German aircraft.

A German High Command communiqué stated that in the double battle of Bialystok and Minsk, the greatest amount of war material in world history was captured.

12th July.—While the German High Command stated that German troops had broken through the Stalin Line and were advancing from Lake Preipus towards Leningrad, Moscow did not confirm these claims. The Russians claimed that the Germans had sufferred over a million casualties in 19 days.

Eight million Soviet troops were said to be marching to the front.

13th July.—Great Britain and Russia signed a joint agreement at Moscow, undertaking to render support of all kinds to each other in the prosecution of the war and

neither to negotiate nor conclude an armistice or treaty of peace except by mutual agreement. M. Molotov and Sir Stafford Cripps signed the agreement in the presence of M. Stalin.

A Soviet communiqué stated that, while a Nazi mechanised regiment was annihilated in the South-Western sector, Russian planes had bombed the Rumanian oil centres of Ploesti, Constanza and Sulina and a hundred German aircraft were destroyed during the day; there was no change in the dispositions on the front.

The Germans, on the other hand, reiterated their claim to have stormed the Stalin Line and to be advancing swiftly on Leningrad and Kiev.

14th July.—While the Russians were adjusting their Bessarabian front, Finnish and German troops registered an advance in the Leningrad sector. Railway lines in the neighbourhood of Smolensk and Leningrad were bombed by the enemy.

The Soviet claimed that German casualties in the campaign were over a million, 2,300 German planes were destroyed and 3,000 armoured vehicles lost. The relative Russian figures were not more than a quarter of a million casualties, 1,900 planes and 2,200 armoured cars.

The British Government entertained the Soviet Military Mission to a luncheon in London.

Russia refused to apply the rules of the Hague convention to German hospital ships as the Germans had systematically violated international rules.

15th July.—The Russian Air Force bombed Bucharest and destroyed enemy aircraft in attacks on German aerodromes.

Two enemy destroyers and 13 transports were sunk and one destroyer and a further 13 transports heavily damaged when Russian planes helped the Soviet Baltic Fleet in a battle with German naval units.

A German infantry and an artillery regiment were wiped out by the Soviet forces.

The Soviet Military Mission in London received representatives of the Indian and Empire Press.

Russia and Britain were formally proclaimed Allies by Mr. Churchill in the House of Commons.

16th July.—The Germans once again claimed the capture of Tallinn and Navogorod but the Soviet High Command stated that no substantial change had occurred on the front. The Russians announced the cutting up "section by section" of German motorised and mechanised units in the Peskor and Porkhor sectors.

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The Soviet Air Force bombed enemy oil stocks at Ploesti.

17th July.—The German News Agency's claim to have captured Smolensk was not confirmed even by the Nazi Radio. It was revealed that neither Kiev nor Tallinn had fallen to the Germans.

One Rumanian battalion went over to the Russian army in the South-Western sector and many Axis pilots also deserted to them. The Russians recaptured Rogachev. The Soviet Fleet bombarded Riga.

BALKANS, TURKEY, IRAQ, IRAN, SYRIA, ETC.

12th July.—"Cease Fire" was ordered in Syria, General Dentz, Vichy's High Commissioner, sending a delegation to Allied Headquarters to negotiate an armistice.

13th July.—Armistice terms were initialled at Acre by the Allied and Vichy representatives.

15th July.—A 22 points Armistice Agreement was signed at Acre by Allied and Vichy delegates.

Allied troops entered Beirut.

16th July.—The Allied forces were accorded an enthusiastic welcome in Beirut.

SHIPPING

11th July.—Three German vessels were mined and sunk off Sweden.

The German ship, Hermes (7,209 tons), which tried to evade the British blockade in a dash from South America to Germany was intercepted and its captain and crew taken prisoner.

12th July.—It was stated that the United States would construct 566 merchantmen, the work beginning in August.

The United States Maritime Commission took over 16 more Danish cargo ships laid up in United States ports.

15th July.—The merchant shipping losses in June totalled 79 British, Allied and neutral ships representing 329,296 tons, being the lowest for the last twelve months excepting January.

16th July.—The Australian Government requisitioned 63 ships in inter-State trade, to be operated by the Shipping Control Board.

17th July.—It was stated that one ship per day had its keel laid in American yards during the forty days ending July 10.

FAR EAST

12th July.—The Japanese Consul at Vancouver said: "Japan is not going to pull Germany's chestnuts out of the fire."

13th July.—Protests (with a familiar ring) against alleged ill-treatment and victimisation of Japanese nationals in Indo-China were made in the Tokyo press.

15th July.—Britain gave an assurance to China that she would negotiate for the abolition of her extra-territorial rights when peace was restored.

16th July.—International tension in the Pacific was underlined by the resignation of the Konoye Cabinet, ostensibly to make room for a stronger Government. Pending the formation of a new Cabinet Prince Konoye was asked to carry on by the Emperor of Japan, who cut short his holiday and returned to Tokyo.

Meanwhile, the British and American Governments took all precautionary measures; Sulu Bay near Manila was mined by the United States Navy; and the British Far Eastern Commander-in-Chief said "We are fully prepared, come what may."

Chinese diplomatic and consular staffs in Axis countries were ordered to return home immediately.

17th July.—Prince Konoye was directed by the Japanese Emperor to form a new Cabinet.
Japanese pressure on Vichy for the cession of naval and air bases in Indo-China was revealed.

VICHY

12th July.—Differences between Marshal Petain and Admiral Darlan were reported over the Syrian question.

Marshal Petain called on the French nation to think on its National Day (14th July) of its dead, its prisoners and its ruins.

14th July.—Free France celebrated the National Day, Mr. Churchill, Mr. Eden and other British and American statesmen sending messages affirming their faith in the resurrection of France.

16th July.—The Vichy Government appointed General Weygand as Governor-General of Algiers in succession to Admiral Abrial.

OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

12th July.—The Batavia Radio announced that the Netherlands Indies Government were considering the raising of an expeditionary force.

13th July.—The Rumanian Vice-Premier stated that Bessarabia and Bukovina would be re-annexed by Rumania after the war.

The Montenegrin National Assembly proclaimed Montenegro a sovereign, independent State, taking the form of a constitutional monarchy; the King of Italy would be asked to appoint a Regent, who would frame the new constitution.

15th July.—A new decree issued in Norway gave the Germans powers to compel any person, male or female, to do any work anywhere.

The Tass Agency reported that the Norwegians were continuing to hit back at the Nazi invaders by acts of sabotage.

16th July.—Russia (it was stated) was re-entering into diplomatic relations with the refugee Governments of Greece, Yugoslavia, Belgium and Norway.

NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

12th July.—Italian planes bombed La Linea, the Spanish town near Gibraltar, apparently mistaking it for the latter. Six people were killed and a score injured.

13th July.—General Barron was appointed Commander of the Spanish Military area contiguous to Gibraltar in succession to General Grande, who was leading Spanish volunteers against Russia.

16th July.—In reply to questions in the House of Commons, Mr. Anthony Eden indicated that the British Government were closely watching the Spanish Government's attitude.

17th July.—Both Peru and Ecuador accepted the mediation proposal put forward by the United States, Argentina and Brazil.

WAR IN THE AIR

The following are the details of the British raids from home bases on enemy territory in Europe, ascertained by competent authorities, for the week ending 8th July 1941:—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during British patrols (not specifically mentioned) over West European coastal waters.

Date.	Targets.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
July 2, Wednesday.	R.A.F. day bomber-and-fighter sweeps over English Channel and N. France, including raid on Merville aerodrome and railway junction near Lille. R.A.F. night bomber raids on **Bremen**, **Cologne**, **Duisburg-Ruhrort**; ports, communications and heavy industries in N.W. Germany, the Ruhr and Rhineland; oil stores at Rotterdam; naval base at Cherbourg; shipping in English Channel (6,000-ton merchantman torpedoed).	8 day fighters (all pilots safe). 2 day bombers. 4 night bombers.	21 day fighters. 1 night fighter.
July 3, Thursday.	R.A.F. day bomber-and-fighter sweeps over N. France, including raid on railways in Hazebrouck-St. Omer area. R.A.F. night bomber raids on Krupps arms works at **Essen**; docks at **Bremen**; industrial objectives at **Bremerhaven**; other targets in N.W. Germany and the Ruhr.	6 day fighters. 1 day bomber. 7 night bombers.	12 day fighters.
July 4, Friday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on **Bremen** (docks, factory, railway junction, goods yard, aerodrome); seaplane base at Norderney Is. (barracks, gun emplacements). R.A.F. day bomber-and-fighter sweeps over N. France, including raid on Bethune (power station, chemical works, railway junction). R.A.F. offensive night patrols over N. France, including raid on railway yards at Abbeville. R.A.F. night bomber raids on industrial objectives in the Rhineland; naval bases at **Brest** (*Scharnhorst*, *Gneisenau*, cruiser *Prinz Eugen*) and Cherbourg; submarine base at **L'Orient**; quays, shipping warehouses and factories at Kristiansund and Haugesund (Norway).	3 day fighters. 6 day bombers. 5 night bombers.	16 day fighters. 2 night fighters.
July 5, Saturday.	R.A.F. day bomber attacks on shipping off the Norwegian coast (3,000-ton merchantman sunk, another damaged), Dutch coast (barge sunk, another damaged), Belgian coast (merchantmen of 4,000 and 6,000 tons hit). R.A.F. day bomber-and-fighter sweeps over English Channel and N. France, including raids on arms factory at **Lille**; railway yards at Abbeville; ports of Dieppe, Treport and St. Valery en Caux. R.A.F. night bomber raids on **Munster** (oil dumps, railway station, goods yards); **Magdeburg** (foundries, engineering works, railway yards); **Osnabruck** (factories, railway yard); **Bielefeld** (power plant, gas works, railway yards); industrial objectives at Osterbruck and elsewhere in the Rhineland; oil stores and docks at Rotterdam; invasion base at Den Helder. R.A.F. night fighter raid on aerodrome in N. France.	3 day fighters (1 pilot safe). 3 night bombers.	2 day fighters.
July 6, Sunday.	R.A.F. day bomber attack on light naval craft in North Sea and off Hook of Holland (4 patrol vessels sunk, 1 believed sunk, 3 damaged). R.A.F. day bomber-and-fighter sweeps over N. France, including raid on **Lille** (steel and engineering works, railway yards). R.A.F. night bomber raids on **Munster**; **Dortmund**; Dusseldorf; Cologne; docks at Emden; other objectives in Ruhr and Rhineland; docks at Rotterdam; naval base at Brest (warships and 10,000-ton liner hit).	7 day fighters. (1 pilot safe). 2 day bombers. 6 night bombers.	11 day fighters. 1 night fighter.

Date.	Targets.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
July 7, Monday.	R.A.F. day bomber-and-fighter sweeps over English Channel and N. France, including raids on aircraft works at Meaulte, near Albert; power station and chemical factory at Bethune; shipping in English Channel (E.-boat and 3000-ton merchantman sunk) and off Dutch coast (6 merchantmen of 2,000 to 8,000 tons damaged). R.A.F. night bomber raids on **Cologne**; **Munster**; **Osnabruck**; **Krefeld**; oil stores at Amsterdam; invasion bases at Den Helder, Ostend, Dunkirk and Boulogne (ammunition dump).	3 day fighters. (2 pilots safe). 4 day bombers. 9 night bombers.	7 day fighters.
July 8, Tuesday.	R.A.F. day bomber-and-fighter sweeps over N. France, including raid on synthetic oil wells between lens and Bethune; power station and chemical works at Lille; German naval bases including Wilhelmshaven. R.A.F. night bomber raid on synthetic oil plant at **Leuna**; railway yards at **Hamm**; railways and aerodrome at **Munster** arms factory at Essen; industrial targets at **Bielefeld**, Halle and elsewhere in W. Germany; shipping off north and west coasts of France and harbour at Haugesund. R.A.F. night fighter attack on aerodrome in N. France.	12 day fighters. (2 pilots safe). 1 day bomber. 7 night bombers.	23 day fighters.

The following are the figures of losses of aircraft due to enemy air raids on Britain, ascertained by competent authorities, for the week ending 8th July 1941 :—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during enemy attacks (not specifically mentioned) on shipping in North-West European waters.

Date.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
July 2	Nil.	....
July 3	Nil.	1 day raider.
July 4	Nil.	3 night bombers.
July 5	Nil.	2 night bombers.
July 6	Nil.	3 night bombers.
July 7	Nil.	5 night bombers.
July 8	Nil.	5 night bombers.

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TALKING POINTS

THE WEEK

The most important event of the week is the signing of the Armistice in Syria. The Syrian Armistice Convention was ratified at Acre on Monday evening. So this Syrian business is over. At first the representative of the Vichy Government in Syria refused to discuss Armistice terms if a representative of General de Gaulle formed the Allied Commission but the British authorities were stiff and the French authorities yielded. It should be noted that the negotiations were conducted in an atmosphere of the utmost cordiality, in striking contrast to the conditions which prevailed when the Franco-German Armistice was signed.

Another notable event of the week is the Anglo-Soviet Agreement. This is an alliance between Great Britain and Russia and great expectations have been formed regarding the results of this notable achievement.

The week saw a renewal of the offensive on the part of Germany in three different fronts and Russia's stiff resistance. Russian counter-attacks constitute the chief feature of the present phase of the war. What is undoubtedly true is that Hitler's *blitzkreig* has failed. Many of the best German divisions have been extirpated by Soviet troops, while Germans have lost at least one million men in dead, wounded and prisoners. Russia claims that her loss is only one-fourth of a million. Two thousand three hundred German planes have been accounted for while Russia has lost 1,900 planes. Germany is stated to have lost 3,000 armoured vehicles against 2,200 by Russia.

Seventy-nine British, Allied and Neutral ships were lost during June representing 329,298 tons. These figures show a substantial decrease on losses during May and are the lowest for any month since January. The total losses of merchant shipping during the whole war are 1,738 ships representing 7,118,122 tons, consisting of 1,078 British ships, 634 Allied ships and 326 neutral ships, the monthly average being 324,000 tons. The Axis tonnage captured, sunk or scuttled from the beginning of the war up to July 10 is estimated at 3,391,000 tons. The Admiralty will not hereafter publish shipping losses due to enemy action at regular intervals in order to avoid giving valuable information to the enemy. These losses will be announced from time to time as may be required.

As announced by *The New York Daily News*, it would appear that General Goering, who opposed the Russo-German war, is confined to his home and he has been given the option of either adhering to Hitler or going to a sanatorium. Other Generals who opposed Hitler are, it is stated, being put out of the way.

Like the United States, Britain has promised to negotiate for the abolition of extra-territorial rights in China when peace is restored. This is in accordance with the undertaking already given by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons in reply to a question.

Mr. A. V. Alexdander, First Lord of the Admiralty stated the other day that there were three facts calculated to give satisfaction to the British public. The first was interference by the Navy and the Royal Air Force with the German supply lines to Libya. The second was that British aircraft were sinking and damaging a large amount of enemy shipping. The third was the destruction of German submarines by British Naval forces.

From January 1940 to the end of June 1941, British civilian air-raid casualties were approximately 41,900 killed and 52,678 injured and detained in hospital.

During a remarkable day-light sweep over Rotterdom by Blenheim bombers of the Royal Air Force 17 enemy ships of an estimated tonnage of nearly 100,000 tons were put out of action or sunk.

ANGLO-SOVIET AGREEMENT

The Anglo-Soviet Agreement concluded in the current week is an event of historic significance which has altered the international situation fundamentally. By this agreement the two Governments mutually undertake to render all possible support in the prosecution of the war against the Nazis and, during the war, they will neither negotiate nor call an armistice or treaty except by mutual agreement.

Speaking in the House of Commons on this agreement, Mr. Churchill stated that in concluding it Great Britain had the support of the Dominions and America had been kept fully informed. He declared that the agreement was an alliance and that Russian people were now British Allies. Mr. Churchill expected that this agreement would exercise a highly beneficial and potent influence upon the future of the war. It is significant that General Smuts stated about this alliance: "Nobody can say that we are now in league with Communists and are fighting the battle of Communism. More fitly can neutrals and fence-sitters be charged with fighting the battle of Nazism." The alliance has been hailed with great satisfaction in Great Britain, Russia, the Dominions and America. It is a military alliance pregnant with great possibilities. What is of considerable significance is that mass meetings are being held in different parts of Russia in support of this agreement and great enthusiasm prevails over the fact that after all Great Britain and Russia have come closer together for the purpose of destroying Hitlerism.

POLAND AND GERMANY

A very promising and satisfactory development is the probability of the state of war still existing between the Soviet Union and Poland being ended. There have been talks between the representatives of both the countries. It would appear that the Soviet Government propose that a fresh frontier should be set up restoring purely Polish districts to Poland, that a Polish diplomatic office be established, that Polish prisoners be set at liberty from Soviet camps. The Polish Government ask that Polish prisoners, military and political, should be released and that full diplomatic relations be established.

Mr. Churchill announced in the House of Commons that a great measure of agreement between Russia and the Polish State had been attained. No definite conclusions have yet been reached, but the statesmanship of General Sikorski has been very helpful in the matter and very soon an agreement satisfactory to both the parties will be concluded.

MR. CHURCHILL'S SPEECH

Mr. Churchill made a striking speech at the London County Council's luncheon to the British Cabinet. His main theme was the way in which London and other cities faced the onslaughts of the *Luftwaffe*. He specially paid a tribute to the unconquerable grit and stamina of Londoners. He asked no favour of the enemy. He pointed out: "We seek from them no compunction. We will mete out to the Germans the measure, and more than the measure, they meted out to us. . . . You do your worst and we will do our best." He further said: "We will have no truce or parley with Hitler or the grizzly gang who did Hitler's wicked worst." Referring to the increased activities of the Royal Air Force in Germany and occupied countries, Mr. Churchill said: "We believe it will be in our power to keep the process going on in a steadily rising tide, month after month, year after year, until the Nazi regime is either extirpated by us, or better still, torn to pieces by the German people themselves." And he continued: "Every month, as great bombers are finished in our factories, or sweep hither across the Atlantic Ocean, we shall continue a remorseless discharge of high-explosives on Germans. Every month, we will see, as the tonnage increases, and as the nights lengthen and the range of our bombers also grows, that unhappy, abject, subject province of Germany which used to be called Italy will have its fair share, too." Mr. Churchill claimed that in the last few weeks Great Britain had thrown upon Germany about half the tonnage of bombs thrown by the Germans upon English cities during the whole course of the war.

PEACE IN SYRIA

After a brief period in which the Vichy Government indulged in hedging and face-saving, their High Commissioner in Syria, General Dentz, sent a delegation to the Allied headquarters to negotiate an armistice. It was speedily initialled and then ratified formally at the historic town of Acre. British, Vichy and Free French representatives met in an atmosphere of friendship and the 22 points agreement accorded all honours of war to the French while securing the independence of Syria and the strategic and military position of the Allies. The main terms are as follows, according to a message from Cairo, dated July 15th.

The French forces will be concentrated in certain localities by noon (Tuesday) and they will remain under French Command until repatriated. When retiring to selected localities with all arms and ammunitions, they will receive the honours of war. And officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers will be permitted to retain individual arms but soldiers will not be allowed to carry ammunition. War material, such as guns and military transport, will be stocked under the control of the British, who have the right to take over what they require. The remainder will be destroyed by the French under British control. Allied prisoners will forthwith be set free, including the Indian officers transferred to France. The alternative of rallying to the Allied cause or being repatriated is left to the choice of each Frenchman. Executive officials will remain at their posts so long as it is necessary to ensure the continuance of the administration. The British authorities agree to the repatriation of the French troops by French ships under British control. The holdings of repatriated French subjects will be transferred. French cultural institutions are assured that their rights will be respected.

Thus within a period of 34 days from June 8, when the Allies entered Syria, a country of an area of 60,000 square miles had been so effectively penetrated that General Dentz, despite considerable Vichy forces at

his disposal, was obliged to sue for peace. The object of the Allies could well have been achieved in half the time or less, but two facts have to be borne in mind. The nature of the terrain with steep hills, deep rivers, forests and indifferent communications was such that quick results could not be expected. In the second place, Generals Wavell and De Gaulle were particularly anxious to avoid clashes between comrades and Allies. Leaflets and appeals to join General De Gaulle had only very partial successes. The Vichy troops had no alternative but to fight, but the reinforcements promised did not arrive. The French put up a stubborn resistance, helped thereto by the Senegalese troops. General Wilson proved himself to be a great tactician, reaching the outer defences of Beirut after having occupied Damascus, the capital of Syria in a month. Other columns swept across the desert from Iraq towards Homs and Aleppo and General Dentz' forces were rapidly encircled. Air and naval support played a significant part in the campaign.

What are the results of the Armistice? The outer defences of Syria and India are no longer in danger of becoming bases for Axis operations. The Syrians will gain their independence and the advantage of being outside the blockade of Germany and her vassals. The Turks will naturally be gratified because land and sea communications with their British Allies have been safeguarded and Turkey will be able to resist further Axis demands on her. A tribute should be paid to the Free French Forces who undertook a very delicate and painful task.

CAMPAIGN IN RUSSIA

By the beginning of the third week of the German campaign in Russia, the Russians had fallen back—fighting inch by inch and in perfect order—on the Stalin line inside Russia proper, stretching roughly from Lake Peipus on the Estonian border in the north, through Ostrov, Polostak, Lepel, Bobruisk and Novograd-Volynsk, to Podolsk and thence to Bassarabia where the Soviet troops retiring from River Pruth were falling back on River Dniester, the 1939 boundary. The mortal blow which Hitler hoped to inflict on the Russian army by *blitzkrieg* methods did not materialise and the Red Army's numerous but untried divisions, exposed for the first time to the full fury of the Nazi onslaught, not only retained their fighting ability intact but indulged in numerous local counter-attacks, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. Great vigilance is, however, indicated on the part of the defenders, especially as the Germans have now launched a twofold drive—one towards Leningrad in the Lake Peipus region and the other in the south towards Kiev, the Ukrainean capital. The two " claws " of the Nazi pincers aiming at Moscow are being well held by the Russians—in the Polotsk-Lepel sector and the Borisor-Bobruisk region respectively. The German claim to have taken Tallinn, the Estonian capital in the north, Smolensk in the centre and Kiev in the south are now known to be false. Commenting on the Nazi claim that the defences of Kiev have been annihilated, it is pointed out by correspondents at Stockholm that what has happened is that German tanks have arrived at Kiev while the main body of the German infantry has been held up at Jitomir and Novograd-Volynsk. Thus the Russians have repeated the tactics used at Minsk, where the German infantry was cut off while the Nazi tanks disappeared towards Smolensk. In the Ukraine, the Russians are hurriedly harvesting wheat and burning what cannot be taken away. A similar application of the " scorched earth " policy is reported at Tallinn, where the factories have been destroyed preparatory to the defence of the city by 150,000 soldiers, who will bar the German advance. Meanwhile, the warships Kirov and October Revolution have shelled Riga while Soviet bombers raided Nazi barracks in the city. A great German offensive towards Leningrad is now being prepared but Russia has one million first-class troops in the Leningrad military district and so the offensive will be no picnic. Further north, it is becoming clear that the Finnish thrust is no more than a token attack and that the Finns are waiting till the Germans get near Leningrad before they sacrifice themselves. Nor does the attack by Austrian troops towards Murmansk show any progress whatever. The Germans also claim to have won decisive victories in the Pripet Marshes but the Russians are grimly fighting back. Indeed in the large-scale operations now in progress on the whole Baltic—Black Sea front, they have so far stood up to the invaders with vigour and success. And it must be remembered that the Stalin Line is not a defensive line in the ordinary sense of the term; it is a series of cleverly designed fortified positions in great depth and even if the Germans break through at some points, as they claim to have done, it does not mean that the battle is won or lost or that the Russians are in a bad plight. Provided they keep their armies intact till the fury of the Germans exhausts itself and winter conditions bring relief, they can hope to launch a massive counter-attack later. And they must feel heartened by the knowledge that Great Britain is now their declared Ally and all the might and resources of the British Commonwealth of Nations will be at their disposal. A formal agreement was signed in Moscow by Sir Stafford Cripps, British Ambassador, and M. Molotov, Russia's Foreign Commissar, in which both powers undertook to aid each other to the utmost and not to negotiate a separate armistice or treaty without the knowledge of the other. M. Stalin was present at the signing; and Mr. Churchill formally announced in the House of Commons that " the Russian people are now our Allies." And the Soviet Military Mission has been in close touch with the British Government and their military advisers.

CHINA FINDS UNITY AND STRENGTH

FIFTH YEAR OF WAR WITH JAPAN

A Commander of the Japanese North China Garrison, while holding night "manœuvres" close to Marco Polo bridge, near Lukouchiau, on the night of July 7, 1937, noticed that one of his men was missing. His remarkable and only conclusion was that the man had been kidnapped by Chinese troops who, he asserted, had spirited the man into the near-by walled town. He demanded, therefore, that his force be admitted to the town but this was naturally refused. The Japanese stated that the Chinese there wantonly opened fire. Japanese artillery bombarded the town. The Chinese Government protested to Tokyo against the provocative activities of Japanese forces in North China (stationed there since the occupation of Manchuria in 1931). Martial law was declared in Peiping and Tientsin. On July 9, in spite of an agreement on the terms of truce, a statement was issued in Tokyo after a meeting of the Japanese Cabinet, declaring that "all necessary measures will be taken for the despatch of military forces to North China." Further fighting broke out on the 12th July and reinforcements were sent from Tokyo. The Chinese Minister in London stated: 'Events of the last few days give strong evidence that the Japanese military action in North China is a premeditated attempt to reduce North China to a second Manchuria.' Japanese troops thereafter moved from Manchukuo and Chinese troops from Nanking and fighting took place at Wang-Ping on July 20. On July 28 serious fighting took place in the affected area, Peiping being bombed by Japanese aircraft. On July 29, Marshal Chiang Kai-shek, addressed a mobilization appeal: "China is determined to fight to the last man. I call upon the people to mobilize their total resources and struggle hand-in-hand to save the country." The Japanese replied by marching on Peiping itself, which fell the same day. Tientsin was taken the next day. Following an incident at Shanghai on August 9, Japanese began invasion of the port on the 15th August and the war flared up, which has now entered its fifth year.

JAPANESE OUTRAGES IN NANKING

The fighting at Shanghai lasted till November 9, 1937. It was the biggest battle the world had seen since the carnage at Verdun during the Great War, the casualties running into hundreds of thousands. The Chinese put up a stubborn resistance to the violent attack of the invaders; but gradually they had to withdraw, gave up their position in Shanghai, and lost Nanking, the national capital, on December 13. Certain military advisers of Marshal Chiang Kai-shek were of the opinion that he should not have attempted to hold Nanking at such gigantic cost but possibly he felt justified in doing so owing to its emotional and historical importance. The Chinese soldiers fought rear-guard actions up to Nanking, where a ferociously maddened Japanese army committed one of history's most terrible acts. Murder, rape, destruction, looting—a crazy vindictiveness on the part of the Japanese—resulted in some 50,000 civilian deaths. And Japan proceeded to outrage the feelings of foreign powers by deliberately bombing and sinking the United States gunboat, *Panay*, in the Yangtze, a few miles above Nanking on December 12, 1937. Escaping survivors were machine-gunned. Even Tokyo was alarmed by the repercussions and promptly paid the bill for £442,801 submitted by the United States of America.

It is very likely that the Japanese Government hoped to restrict the war to North China; they wanted simply to nip off the five Northern Provinces and did not want a major war. But within four months of the outbreak of hostilities it was already obvious that the war could not be limited to North China and that the Nanking Government were in no danger of collapse. The invaders, therefore, decided to destroy that government and put in their place a subservient puppet regime. Even this failed to bring peace. Disconcerted, the Japanese decided to conquer the country.

Marshal Chiang-Kai-shek now initiated a process of what Mr. John Gunther calls attrition in reverse; he fought, he receded a little, he stood, he receded again, always with the object of making any Japanese advance extremely expensive. And in March 1938, a brilliant Chinese forward movement won a memorable victory at Taierchuang in Shantung Province. The Japanese, however, achieved in the first half of the year their principal objective—the junction of their northern armies in the Hopei-Shantung area near the Yellow River with their central army in the Yangtze Valley, based on Nanking. Thanks to a victory in a fiercely-contested battle at Hsuchow in May, they proceeded to gain control of the Lunghai railway (from east to west) and to spread out fanwise towards the south. Helped by bombardment by their naval craft cruising up the Yangtze river and, of course, by bombing from their air-planes, the Japanese were able to capture in October Marshal Chiang's new capital, the city of Hankow.

LOSS OF CANTON

The Chinese army retreated west and took up new positions in Szechwan; and Chungking was chosen as capital. Guerilla troops fought hard in the north and held Shansi and generally they developed the technique of rousing the people behind the Japanese front line. Before Hankow had fallen, however, the Chinese sustained a crippling blow, the fall of Canton. On October 12, some 40,000

Japanese soldiers landed at Bias Bay, just to the north of Hongkong, under the guns of the Japanese fleet. Though the local Chinese Commander, General Pai Chung-shi, was the ablest in China, the defenders had made no preparations to meet the attack—either due to over-confidence or thinking that the Japanese would not dare to venture so near the British Colony of Hongkong. The great bulk of their arms supplies had come from Hongkong *via* Canton to Hankow although the Japanese had constantly bombed the railway. That route could be used no more with the loss of Canton. Other noteworthy events in 1938 were the investment of most of the Chinese coast-line, the occupation of Hainan Island and terrific bombings of Chungking. These last, far from breaking Chinese morale, served only to consolidate it.

The summer of 1939 opened with spectacular Chinese victories in Shansi Province. The Japanese shook up their High Command and started a face-saving drive on Changsha. Their faces were slapped instead in what Chungking called " the biggest single victory of the war." Desperate, the Japanese undertook a surprise attack, this time successful, on Naning, in order to stop the flow of munitions from French Indo-China into China. This was a serious blow to the Chinese. The fall of Ichang gave the Japanese a convenient base for new and heavier-than-ever bombing attacks on Chungking.

BURMA ROAD

In March 1940 the Japanese installed Wang Ching-wei, a Chinese nationalist leader who had turned against Marshal Chiang, as head of a puppet Government at Nanking. Neither Britain nor America recognized Wang's Government. On June 24, Mr. Arita, then Japan's Foreign Minister, made strong representations on the use of the Burma Road—linking Lashio, northern terminus of the Burmese railway coming from Rangoon, with Chungking—for the transport of war material to China. On June 28, he defined, Japanese foreign policy, marking out Eastern Asia and the (undefined) " Southern seas " as Japan's special sphere and warning other powers against interference with his country's mission to establish a " New Order " in China. On July 18, were published the terms of an Anglo-Japanese agreement closing the Burma Road to the transport of munitions for three months. The agreement, which the British Government made reluctantly and on the understanding that Japan would take prompt measures to arrive at an equitable peace with China, evoked a Chinese protest and American official criticism, without Japan being completely satisfied. On July 17, the then Japanese Premier, Admiral Yonai resigned, and Prince Konoye formed a Ministry with Mr. Matsuoka as Foreign Minister. On July 27, when the British Ambassador drew Mr. Matsuoka's attention to the deterioration of Anglo-Japanese relations and asked whether the situation permitted further negotiations, he obtained no clear reply. A campaign against British residents in Japan followed. On August 9, the British troops in Shanghai were withdrawn. Americo-Japanese relations grew worse. American embargoes on the export of aviation petrol and steel scrap affected Japan's war effort, and a large American loan to China followed the State Department's public expression of concern at events in Indo-China. On September 28, Japan concluded a ten-year treaty with the Axis Powers at Berlin by which Germany and Italy recognized Japan's hegemony in Eastern Asia and Japan recognized their hegemony in Europe. The three powers agreed to co-operate on the above lines, and to assist one another with military, political and economic means were any of them attacked by any power not yet involved in the European or the Oriental conflict. The treaty did not affect the relations between each of the signatories and Russia. The British Government now hit back and did not renew the Burma Road Agreement; and the construction of the Chinese railway to the Burmese frontier will doubtless increase supplies to the Government at Chungking. America too, interpreted the Berlin Treaty as a threat. On November 30, the Japanese, after evacuating large areas in Southern China, recognized the Nanking Government as the sole Government of China, an ineffective demonstration, as was shown by an American loan to China of 100,000,000 dollars on the same day. On December 11, British credits of £10,000,000 were promised to General Chiang's Government.

JAPANESE OFFENSIVE FRUITLESS

This year, taking a leaf out of Hitler's book, Japan astonished the world by entering into a pact of non-aggression with Russia. But the German assault on Russia has thrown the international diplomatic and political situation out of gear and the Japanese Government have not yet ventured to come out into the open with any definite military policy. Japanese troops are still toiling in Chinese mountains and up river gorges. The recent much advertized offensive on five fronts and in four provinces has not yet attained any decisive result. Both sides have made claims to victory, and it is not easy to disentangle the truth from the conflicting testimony of the meagre reports available. It would seem, however, that on three of the fronts the Japanese advance has been halted, and that on only one has any substantial progress been made. The boasted Japanese " steel rings " are illustrating once again the proverbial shoddiness of Japanese goods. In the south, after taking Waichow, 90 miles east of Canton, the Japanese have advanced no further. In Chekiang they have not succeeded in advancing inland from the ports they recently seized. In a drive south from Hangchow, however, they have occupied Chuki and pushed some miles further on. In Central

China, their double drive up the Han river (a tributary of the Yangtse) and westward from the Hankow-Yengchow railway, whose ultimate aim was the cutting of the northern supply route from Russia, has been repulsed. The Japanese are retiring to their original positions. Only in the north have the Japanese made substantial progress. Their drive in Southern Shanshi towards the Hwang-Ho (Yellow River) has resulted in their occupation of Tungfeng and the retirement of the Chinese to the southern bank of the river. In the mountains of northern Shansi a Communist army, which stood watching events for some time, apparently dissatisfied with the Chiang administration, has now responded to the Marshal's appeal and is co-operating vigorously.

Thus, the Japanese Imperial Army, promised an excursion which would last three months, and which is still called not a war but an "incident" has been struggling vainly in China for more than four years. When Hankow fell the military phase of Japanese conquest came to an end. A war of waiting and attrition began. The mere bulk of China is a powerful shock-breaker, capable of absorbing the most violent Japanese *Blitzkierg*. Her immense man-power and inexhaustible natural resources have been so mobilized as to produce the most astounding results. Her ancient history and culture have endowed her leaders and people with courage, resource, and vision. Increasing aid from Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union is strengthening her defences. China can afford to wait. Apart from the areas of "mobile warfare" where the Japanese are almost permanently on the defensive (notably in Shantung, Northern Kiangsu, Anthwei, Hopei, Chahar, Eastern Suiyan, Hainan Island and the Chungshan area in Kwantung Province) there are three main fronts. (1) The Northern Front in Shansi; (2) The Central Front, covering parts of Hupeh, Hunan, Kiangsi, Chekiang and Kiangsu and (3) The Southern front, running through Kwantung and Kwangsi. On all these fronts, guerilla units support the regular forces, while in the areas of mobile warfare small units of regular troops are used to strengthen the guerilla forces which bear the brunt of the continuous fighting.

FOREIGN MINISTER'S REVIEW OF WAR

Mr. Quo Tai-chi, China's new Foreign Minister, speaking at a luncheon of the Fabian Society in London recently, rightly emphasized the immense importance of the Chinese factor in the present world situation. This, he was happy to say, was now being recognized, though for two years China had had to fight her battle almost unaided. China remains unconquered and remains more than ever unconquerable. "China, like Britain," he said, "is 'blest with a brilliant and great leader,' to quote President Roosevelt's words, in her supreme crisis. We have our Chiang Kai-shek as you have your Churchill and as the Americans have their Franklin Roosevelt. Also our plain people, like your plain people, are indomitable in spirit, valiant in deeds, and immeasurable in fortitude."

Reviewing the military situation, the Foreign Minister remarked that the Japanese had made little or no progress into the interior of South China since the fall of Canton and Hankow in October 1938, nor had they advanced in Central China since the capture of Ichang, on the Yangtze, last June. In November they launched a useless and costly offensive in Western Hupeh, and in January more than 100,000 Japanese launched an offensive in Southern Honan. But the Chinese lured the enemy into a battlefield of their own choice, and by February 1 the enemy's lines of communications became so exposed that when the Chinese counter-attacked, they withdrew in great haste and had to set fire to hundreds of lorries. To-day, Mr. Quo Tai-chi said, Japan had about a million troops bogged in China and had suffered at least a million casualties. China, on the other hand, had more than doubled her military strength since the war began. She had five million men under arms, of whom four million were regular troops and one million guerilla soldiers. There were one million reserves in training camps and ten million others who had received elementary military training. China was self-sufficient in all arms except heavy guns and planes, which would be essential for a general counter-offensive which might come sooner than was expected.

After dwelling on the far-reaching internal reforms carried out by the Chinese Government and their valuable industrial and economic work, the Foreign Minister stressed the fact that "this development of China's rich hinterland has had one consequence which might well outweigh all the rest, and that is that it has given China the pivotal strategic position in Eastern Asia. The southwestern provinces of China, which have almost miraculously been opened up, are the pivot of any future war in Eastern Asia."

CHINA REJECTS "PEACE" OFFER

Marshal Chiang Kai-shek is as convinced as ever that Prince Konoye can never succeed in "beating China to her knees." When Hankow fell, China was alone, facing the most acute crisis. Yet Dr. Trautman, the Nazi Ambassador, failed to persuade General Chiang Kai-shek to make peace. A second German attempt at mediation to-day would also be foredoomed to failure (says a writer in *The Times*). The Japanese make no disguise of the misgiving with which they view the war outlook. Prince Konoye in January admitted that peace was not in sight: General Tanaka in February told the

Japanese Diet that it was needless to crush the Chungking regime by force of arms, but essential to develop economically the areas already occupied, which could then afford to ignore the Chungking regime! Japan's armies live largely off the country; in 1940 they were said to extract 60 per cent of their rice from China, paying the Chinese in yen notes which buy nothing and causing starvation in the occupied areas. Japan has also increased her wool, salt, and coal imports from China. Even this easing of the burden leaves a heavy strain; and with a decline of three-fourths in cotton exports from China to Japan, caused by Japanese Army control of the trade and refusals to pay an economic price, "co-operation" with the occupied areas does not promise to cover war costs.

China has, of course, suffered more than Japan from the war. War devastation and the deliberate depredations of the Japanese Army have wrecked the wealth of the coastal and central provinces. It is typical that the puppet Government of Wang Ching-wei at Nanking derive their revenues largely from the drug traffic run by the invading army, although that faction occupies what used to be the richest provinces. The Chinese military retreat to the interior was doubled by a cultural and industrial migration. The removal of students to the interior preserved continuity in education. From their distant, reformed colleges, men have gone out to staff the administration. It might be said that the students had to leave, since only death awaited them if the Japanese caught them. But that was not true of the craftsmen and mechanics, who moved and took their tools with them. Seventy machine workers of Ning-po pulled 200 tons of machinery in hand carts over the hills of Chekiang. They struggled on for months, frequently bombed from the air, but at last they reached a spot where they could set their machines up again. It is bodies as tough as these which form the Chinese Industrial Co-operatives, of which there are now 20,000 of various sizes. These forms of patriotism are a new phenomenon in the land. No doubt the vast size of the country, which renders a total military occupation impossible, has helped, as also has the immensity of the population, which can spare millions of men for the army and millions more for industry.

These are the moral, strategic, political, and economic factors involved. China will not yield to threats or be ensnared by treacherous peace offers. "The indomitable spirit of revolutionary China knows no defeat", Marshal Chiang has said, and only a week ago, he pleaded for a close alliance of Britain, the United States, Russia and China to tackle the menace of totalitarian aggression that threatens to kill freedom and democracy all over the world.

JAPAN'S DILEMMA

REACTIONS TO THE RUSSO-GERMAN WAR

Hitler's diabolical move against Russia has landed Japan in a quandary. Important conferences have been held of the leading Japanese statesmen and the Cabinet and it is stated that a "momentous decision" has been taken, but the words has not been told what it is. What it knows is that a sentational development has taken place—the Konoye Ministry has resigned after holding office for exactly one year. Prince Konoye has again been asked to form a Cabinet. The reason stated is that there was a widespread demand for a 'strong' Government. The fact that the Emperor and the Empress have returned to Tokyo interrupting the vacation at Hayama Villa adds great significance to the resignation. In Washington there is a disposition to believe that the conservative business group has compelled the Army-controlled Government to clear out, justifying the hope of the United States Government that this turn was likely to occur—a hope which lay behind President Roosevelt's desire to avoid any serious break with Japan in recent weeks. On the other hand, a Reuter's Far Eastern Expert inclines to the view that the extremists have forced out the Cabinet in the hope of carrying their policy with the help of the new Government. At the same time authoritative Government circles state that there will be no change in either the domestic or the international field.

It is certain, however, that Germany is instigating Japan to attack Russia in the Far East. As an inducement, Germany and her slave-states have recognized the puppet Government in Nanking. But an attack against Russia is not easy. In the first place, after four years of violent struggle, China has not been subjugated. That war has been exhausting and so far unsuccessful. In the second place, Russia has her own eastern defences which have nothing to do with her western defences. Both are entirely separate and each is self-supporting. It is estimated that Russia has two to four million men in the East. Japan has about a million men in China. Can she find a force to attack Russia without either weakening her Chinese garrisons or straining the war-weary home front?

As regards Japan's commitments, the situation is as follows: Japan is a member of the Tripartite Pact with Germany and Italy, but Soviet Russia is expressly excluded from that agreement and Japan is under no obligation to go to the help of the two partners in the war against Russia. On the other hand, there is the Soviet-Japanese Pact of last year, perhaps entered into under pressure from Berlin. Under this Pact, Japan has promised to be neutral in any war in which Russia is involved. Will she honour her obligations in letter and in spirit? That is the question. There are extreme elements in Japan, the ultra-nationalist group supporting Mr. Matsuoka and the moderates led by Baron Hiranuma, former Prime Minister. The War Cabinet is extremist in its composition, and the problem before Japan is how to manoeuvre the ship of State along the forbidding rocks.

As soon as hostilities between Germany and Russia began, the Japanese papers, taken by surprise, were very critical of Hitler's policy which they called "bullet diplomacy." One newspaper stated bluntly that this was a race for raw materials, for securing which treaties and pacts were being reduced to scraps of paper and morals banished from the world. Later on, however, the extremist elements seem to have somewhat gained the upper hand. Generally, the Japanese public and press are anti-British and anti-American and the promise of American and British help to Russia has added fuel to the fire. The *Nichi Nichi* wrote: "In order to develop the Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere, the Anglo-American influences and the rest of the old order must be wiped out," The *Miyako* stated: "The time is coming when Japan must ask meddlers to reconsider their policy or she must halt them by force."

It will be seen, therefore, that, while there is a party which does not obviously like the German move because its eventual object is world domination which, if attained, would reduce Japan to the position of a vassal State, there is another, consisting of the extremely wild elements which call for strong action against the Western Democracies.

So far as Japan's moves are concerned, it is pretty clear that there have been many in the last few months. Formosa, Hainan and South China have now strong Japanese forces. Japan has acquired important rights in Indo-China and she may like to possess air and naval bases in South Indo-China and Thailand, both as a measure of protection against Germany should she defeat Russia in the present war and as a measure of help in her southward drive. There are reports that merchant shipping is being concentrated in the Pacific and that warnings have been issued in respect of trade and other commitments in foreign lands in Asia and elsewhere.

Why are these moves taking place? That is so far a mystery. If she proceeds against Russia she will have to face the coalition of Great Britain, Russia and America. If Germany wins, Japan will become nothing but a Far-Eastern slave-country just like Italy and all her dreams of a New Order in the Far-East would vanish. If, however, Japan is neutral and does not walk into Germany's parlour, she would still have to be friendly with the Pacific Powers and a settlement with the Democracies would involve both the cessation of the war with China and the abandonment of her south-eastern drive. This would

(*Continued on Page* 17)

MISLEADING STATEMENTS IN ENEMY BROADCASTS

BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH

" Facts—Not Propaganda "

The reports issued by the German Supreme Command,—" unlike those issued from Soviet Headquarters, deal in facts, not propaganda ", that's Lord Haw Haw's latest gem (July 6).

The British Ministry of Information has always followed the principle that facts and propaganda are synonymous, but it is obvious from Haw Haw's remark that Dr. Goebbels has other ideas. We knew that long ago, but it's good to get confirmation out of their own mouths.

" Spiritual crusade "

" By inciting the Reds to attack National Socialist Germany," says Haw Haw, " Mr. Churchill has done the world one great service . . . He has united Europe against a deadly menace. He has given occasion for a spiritual crusade, which will make Europe clean for centuries to come. ."

But Haw Haw, who spends so much time gloating over the wonderful words of the beloved Fuehrer, would do well to read the utterances of his lord and master more carefully. We need not go back as far as *Mein Kampf*. Just two weeks ago Adolf was explaining why he had decided to invade Russia and for once a few words of truth escaped him. He said :—

" So long as German forces had to be kept on guard at Russia's western frontier, the German High Command could not guarantee victory over Britain."

In other words, the Nazi dictator is gambling on a quick and cheap victory over Russia so that he can release more than 100 extra divisions for the assault on Britain. That is the kernel that lies hidden behind the masses of drivelling nonsense emitted from Berlin.

Sidelights on the Soviet

" Scientists the world over," says Berlin (July 1), " would do well to recall the thousands of respected and renowned colleges which were liquidated in a most horrible fashion by those in power in the Kremlin. Science was practically exterminated by the Bolsheviks . . . they have no brief for science; no more are they entitled to speak in the name of religion."

And again on July 4 we are told that more than 800,000 peasants and others have been put to death in Russia during the Bolshevik regime, while aspersions are cast by Berlin on Russia's industrial situation.

If the Soviet economy is so useless, how do the Germans explain the highly industrialised condition of the Ukraine and the Urals, a condition which they hoped to exploit, first by economic agreements of astronomic proportions, then by annexation? And whence came the 5,774 tanks, 2,330 guns and 4,725 aeroplanes that the Germans claim to have destroyed or captured in the first ten days of the Russo-German war?

Nazi " Culture "

As to Berlin's cultural comments on the latest victim of Nazi " friendship," we seem to remember the " Burning of the Books " and the " Night of the Long Knives," not to mention the Reichstag Fire and the religious persecution which forms a cardinal point of Nazi policy.

What happened to Albert Einstein, Thomas Mann, Sigmund Freud, Pastor Niemoller and a host of other doctors, divines and professors who were not allowed to continue their work in Hitler's Greater Germany?

Russia's advance in stratospheric researches, her investigations into the physiology of the human body under Pavlov, her concrete achievements in socialised medicine, her experiments in the film industry under Pudovkin, in the drama under Gorki. . . these entitle her to ally herself with the forces of civilisation and to combat, with the world's sympathy, Nazi criminalities.

In the air

On July 4, Berlin alleged that in one daylight raid on Northern France 25 British bombers were escorted by 200 fighters and concluded that this provided " the best proof that the British Air Force is very much afraid " of the *Luftwaffe* and German anti-aircraft defences.

These daylight bomber-and-fighter sweeps are a daily feature of the Royal Air Force's midsummer offensive which has already pushed the front line of the air war back from the shores of Britain to a depth of 60 miles inside the Continent.

In addition to escort duty, fighters themselves have special jobs, such as shooting up German troop concentrations and aircraft dispersed on the ground.

Although most of the dog-fights are now taking place over enemy territory, German losses continue in the same high ratio (in relation to Royal Air Force losses) as characterised the dramatic days of the attempted air invasion of Britain last autumn.

German air losses

In the last fortnight of June these offensive sweeps in daylight over Northern France accounted for 157 German fighters and one seaplane, while Royal Air Force losses for the same period were 48 fighters and six bombers. In the same area in the first five days of this month the Germans have lost 54 fighters, shot down at a cost of 20 British fighters and 11 bombers.

In view of these facts, what is there for the Royal Air Force to be " afraid of "?

Britain, Russia and Iran

Berlin claimed on July 4 that " Britain has offered to Soviet Russia the division of Iran into a British and a Soviet sphere of interests ," adding that "the British are to be entitled to send troops through Iran."

Apart from the fact that this report has been officially denied in Moscow, it is interesting to recall that only a few days before, the same announcer told us that Iran, though remaining neutral in the Russo-German conflict, felt great relief as the " menacing clouds that had gathered over her north-eastern frontier have now dispersed."

Arabs and Jews

Berlin continues to regale us with fabrications about " serious clashes between Arabs and Jews." On July 2 " travellers arriving at Istanbul from Baghdad " were quoted as the source of information.

It is well to recall what the editor of *Falastin*, the Palestinian newspaper, wrote at the outbreak of war in September 1939 :— " The Arabs now set aside their local issues in order to play their role in this world conflict, cherishing the hope that when justice emerges victorious they will be adequately rewarded for their loyalty."

BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES

Britain and Small Countries

The inimitable Dr. Goebbels, in his Asiatic broadcasts of July 1, surpassed himself when he accused England of suppressing the freedom of all small countries. This base and baseless lie comes ill from Nazi Germany, which has her hands already red with the blood of no less than twelve European countries—mainly small. In these countries, all freedom—political, economic, religious and social—is a thing of the past. On the other hand, the part Britain played in emancipating countries like Greece, Belgium, the Spanish American colonies, the Moslem countries of Iraq and Egpyt and, yes, Italy is a matter of history. As the Egyptian paper, *Al Masri* recently remarked : " The British representative proves once more, by deeds and not by words, that the British Empire fights, not for invasion and conquest, but for the cause of right and freedom. Now, after liberating Abyssinia, she aids Free France, who proclaims the objective as the liberation of Syria and Lebanon."

Russian Campaign

So anxious are the Germans to boost their "successes " in Russia that their Asiastic broadcasts of July 2 purported to quote the Spanish paper *A. B. C.* as stating that the Germans have dispersed the Russian Army. It is, all the same, undeniable that Italian political and military circles are issuing warnings against the belief that a quick victory will be gained over Russia, as the Russians " dispose powerful reserves of men and material apart from possible traps due to the expanse of the territory and operations." Still more significant are the observations of the German paper *Frankfurter Zeitung* which describe the Russian resistance as " stubborn and desperate "and stresses the fact that the German army is only at the beginning of its task.

Nazis 'Caught Napping'

German High Command's special announcement from the Headquarters of the Fuehrer, broadcast with their Hindustani news on July 3, claimed to have taken 160,000 Russian prisoners of war and destroyed 4,725 Russian planes. Nothing however, could better reveal the absurdity of these Nazi claims than an Italian news item, broadcast in a Weekly Review of News in Bengali from Rome, an hour and a half *after* the German news, which stated that no more than 40,000 Soviet troops were captured. And as regards the destruction of Russian planes, the Germans had, according to the Boston News in German, at the outbreak of the Russo-German war declared that Russia did not possess more than 4,700 planes in all. So, according to their own reckoning, the Germans have already destroyed 25 planes more than the Russian total.

German Bombast

Always eager to assume the role of the crusaders of the past, the Germans, in their Hindustani, Persian and Arabic broadcasts of June 6, claimed that the whole of Europe was helping Germany against Russia. The nature of this so-styled co-operation was revealed by the Chief of the Soviet Information Bureau when he published a 'secret' document captured with the German Staff of a defeated tank unit, which states : " The occupation of the Soviet oil regions must be effected in such a way that the Hungarians are by no means able to reach them. Secondly, inasmuch as the Slovakian troops are also being utilized for this purpose, it must, by adding a German unit, be made sure that the Slovaks and the Hungarians do not clash." This incident, together with the Italo-Hungarian wrangles over the prostrate body of Yugoslavia clearly

shows that Hitler's hordes, far from acting as allied troops, are a gang of robbers who do not believe one another and can fight among themselves over the booty at any time.

Dr. Grobba Answered

Quoting the arch-fifth columnist, Dr. Grobba who is misdescribed as the German Ambassador in Iraq, the Nazis' Hindustani and Persian broadcasts of June 30, suggested that the Eastern countries could participate in Germany's new order. The Eastern countries, however, realise that, even from the European countries which Hitler has forcibly annexed to his "new order" he is exacting no less than Rs. 13½ arabs (an arab = 100 crores) a year and de-industralising those unfortunate countries. They also know that their own fate under Hitler who expressly refers to their "racial inferiority" in *Mein Kampf* would be much worse.

Germany's Bombing of Damascus

In their Hindustani and Persian broadcasts of June 30, the Nazis trump up the lie that Britain bombarded the historic Muslim town of Damascus, causing the death of 300 people and destroying several mosques. In point of fact, the inhabitants of Damascus publicly expressed great satisfaction at the care taken during the Allied attack, shown by the fact that only two civilians were killed and seven wounded and none near any mosque. On the other hand, the Nazis' indiscriminate bombing of the thickly populated quarter of Babtouma (Damascus) resulted in 70 killed and 29 seriously wounded, and the historic tomb of Saladin was damaged. The Syrian Premier, Khaled Bey Alazm, characterized this typically Nazi manifestation of "friendship for the Arab peoples" as sheer savagery.

German Diatribe against Sir Claude Auchinleck

In his new appointment in the Middle East Sir Claude Auchinleck will no doubt have the opportunity of replying with something better than words to the verbose German attack on him, broadcast from Berlin on July 3. That Auchinleck's capture of Narvik should have been passed over was natural from the German point of view, but the main Berlin accusation is that he made all sorts of promises to India which were never fulfilled. In five months' work here the late Commander-in-Chief's most widely appreciated proposal was that for the Defence Committee of the Central Legislature, with which, as he said in his farewell message, he was much looking forward to working. He also expressed confidence "that General Wavell will welcome its existence and will be no less conscious of its usefulness and importance."

The press in India, while congratulating General Auchinleck on his new appointment, regrets his departure in the midst of what the *Hindustan Times* calls "a spasm of reformist energy." He "had given ample proof of his fitness for the post," says the *Pioneer*.

Berlin's Idea of the Indian Army

In the same diatribe Berlin betrays its wish that the Indian Army should abandon its task of defending India with the British, and assist the German purpose instead. The broadcaster describes it as a conscript army, being probably quite unable to understand that recruiting throughout India is voluntary—a system remote from all Nazi theories. He further declared that "all the ranks down to the lowest officer are British," a statement which everyone in India knows to be fantastically untrue.

JAPAN'S DILEMMA

(*Continued from Page 14*)

necessarily be opposed very strongly by the present military and naval clique in Japan. What her next step would be is uncertain. Vague phrases are being used as a smoke-screen. What is clear is that Japan is biding her time. She will grab things as chances occur and will follow a policy of pure opportunism till there is some over-powering necessity, compelling her to take a decision.

America and Great Britain are alert and prepared for any eventualities. The policy of His Majesty's Government continues that of giving all possible aid to China in her brave struggle. "We are fully prepared," said Air Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham, Commander-in-Chief of the Far East, on Wednesday last, "Come what may. We are confident that whatever the British forces in the Far East may be called upon to perform, it won't find us wanting." There is perfect understanding in the A. B. C. D. Front—America, Britain, China and the Dutch East Indies—and any southern move by Japan likely to affect the safety of this front is not likely to be acquiesced in. And Japan knows about the American Fleet in the Pacific as how it has been strengthened in every way.

N.B.—Please file the Madras War Review regularly for future reference.

[With the compliments of the Director of Information, Madras.]

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